Anthony Willing
Pres., VISTA
P.O. Box 199
Vashon, WA 98070

Fellow T/S Hobbyist:

VISTA is the Vashon Island Sinclair Timex Association. We are a group dedicated to the maximization of the ZX-81/TS-1000/TS-1500 line of computers. We are mostly a correspondence group, with members as far away as Texas and Michigan. We publish a newsletter every 2 months; the issues include hardware and software reviews, tips and tricks, BASIC programs, T/S news, and more. We also have a library of books, magazines and software which can be had for the cost of mailing and copying. Our dues are $5 per year, payable to VISTA/Anthony Willing. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to write and ask-- we're here to help.

Sinclairly,

Anthony Willing

Anthony Willing, Pres.

```
   1 REM   CLICKSAND
   2 CLS
   3 PRINT "CLICKSAND"
   5 SLOW
  10 RAND
  20 LET S=NOT PI
  30 PRINT AT 14,0;"▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒
▒▒";AT 2,0;"▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒"
  40 FOR X=0 TO 10
  50 PRINT "▒";TAB 12;"▒"
  60 NEXT X
  70 LET L=INT (RND*11)+1
  80 LET R=INT (RND*11)+3
  90 PRINT AT R,L;
 100 IF PEEK (PEEK 16398+256*PEE
K 16399)=128 THEN GOTO 190
 110 PRINT "▒";AT R+(RND<.5)-(RN
D<.5),L+(RND<.5);"▒" AND PEEK (P
EEK 16398+256*PEEK 16399)<>21
 120 LET S=S+100
 130 LET A$=INKEY$
 140 IF A$<"5" OR A$>"8" THEN GO
TO 130
 150 PRINT AT R,L;" "
 160 LET L=L+(A$="8")-(A$="5")
 170 LET R=R+(A$="6")-(A$="7")
 180 GOTO 90
 190 CLS
 200 PRINT "YOU SCORED ";S;" POI
NTS"
 210 PRINT "ANOTHER GAME? (Y/N)"
 220 INPUT B$
 230 IF B$="Y" THEN GOTO 2
 240 IF B$<>"Y" THEN STOP
 250 STOP
```

VISTA USER GROUP

VASHON ISLAND SINCLAIR TIMEX ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 199

VASHON, WA 98070

TS-1000/1500 & ZX-81

```
 600 PRINT AT 20,16;"YOU HAVE FA
LLEN";TAB 18;"IN THE WATER"
 650 PRINT AT 0,0;"ANOTHER TRY? (
Y/N)"
 655 INPUT B$
 656 IF B$="Y" THEN RUN
 657 IF B$<>"Y" THEN STOP
 800 LET SCORE=1000
 810 GOSUB 900
 811 PRINT AT 0,0;"ANOTHER TRY? (
Y/N)"
 813 INPUT B$
 815 IF B$="Y" THEN RUN
 820 IF B$<>"Y" THEN STOP
 900 LET A(1)=A(1)+SCORE
 910 PRINT AT 11,22;"SCORE ";SCO
RE" "
 920 PRINT AT 13,22;"TOTAL ";A(1
)
 930 RETURN
1000 STOP
1010 SAVE "LONDON"
1020 RUN
```

```
   1 REM "LONDON BRIDGE"
   3 CLS
   5 FAST
  10 RAND 0
  20 DIM A(66)
  30 PRINT AT 2,9;"LONDON BRIDGE
"
  35 PRINT AT 3,8;"X------------
-X"
  40 LET WR=1700
  50 PRINT AT 16,25;"WR=";WR;TAB
 11;"▒          ▒";TAB 0;"INPUT";TA
B 1;"123";TAB 1;"456";TAB 1;"789
"
  55 PRINT AT 6,11;"▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒▒"
  60 FOR I=1 TO 11
  70 PRINT TAB 12;"▒_____▒"   (5 SPACES)
  80 NEXT I
  90 FOR N=11 TO 60
 100 LET A(N)=INT (RND*5+1)
 110 LET A$=CHR$ (28+A(N))
 120 LET M=(N-1)/5
 130 GOSUB 500
 135 NEXT N
 140 LET N=8
 145 SLOW
 150 LET A(N)=-28
 155 PRINT AT 20,20;"TO COLLAPSE
"
 160 LET DROP=INT (RND*(67-N)+N-
6)
 170 IF A(DROP)<=0 THEN GOTO 160
 180 PRINT TAB 25;A(DROP)
 190 INPUT DIR
 200 LET I=(INT DIR-1)/3
 205 LET M=(N-1)/5
 210 LET J=M-INT M+I-INT I
 220 LET N1=N+5*(INT I-1)+3*(I-I
NT I)-1
 230 IF DIR<1 OR DIR>9 OR J<0.1
OR J>1.4 OR N1<6 THEN GOTO 190
 235 IF A(N1)<=0 AND N1<=60 THEN
GOTO 190
 240 IF N1>60 THEN LET A(N1)=-28
 250 LET A$=CHR$ (28+A(N))
 260 GOSUB 500
 270 LET M=(N1-1)/5
 280 LET A$=CHR$ (156+A(N1))
 290 GOSUB 500
 300 PRINT AT 20,20;"
";TAB 25;" "
 310 FOR J=1 TO 70
 320 NEXT J
 330 LET M=(DROP-1)/5
 350 LET A$=  "
 360 GOSUB 500
 370 IF N1=DROP THEN GOTO 600
 380 IF N1>60 THEN GOTO 800
 390 LET SCORE=10*(3-INT I)+10*(
2-INT I)*(1-INT I)
 400 IF A(N1)=A(DROP) THEN LET S
CORE=SCORE*3
 410 GOSUB 900
 420 LET A(DROP)=0
 430 LET N=N1
 440 GOTO 155
 500 PRINT AT 5+INT M,13+5*(M-IN
T M);A$
 510 RETURN
```

London Bridge - 16K program from "TS User" Magazine 1-1.

"GOTO 1010" and program will autorun on loading.

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF YOUR PC- Your personal computer is a real technological achievement, but to get the most out of your equipment, proper maintenance is a must. By regular care and cleaning, you can prevent costly repairs and down time, protecting your investment in hardware and software and deriving more enjoyment from your PC. Here are some guidelines:

CRT/TV Screens: If you spend a lot of time in front of a CRT, you are vulnerable to eyestrain, especially if the screen is dirty. To clean and control static on the screen, there are sprays, cloths and pads containing static stoppers and cleaning agents for removing dust and smudges. Don't use a wet paper towel or possibly harsh household cleaners, especially on a monitor screen-- they could destroy special coatings on some screens. For a TV screen, follow the instructions for cleaning in the owner's manual. Water alone is ineffective as an anti-static agent because it leaves static charges behind, which attract more dirt and force more cleaning. Paper towels are taboo because they have tiny fibers that are likely to break off and remain on the screen, or worse, fall into our next subject- the keyboard.

Keyboards come in two types: Open types and the familiar membrane keyboard. Both are the interface between you and your PC and collect dust, fingerprints, oils and dirt from hands, and, in the worst case, occaisional spills of coffee or other drinks. Membrane keyboards can be cleaned with a soft, lint-free cloth, but open keyboards require special care since they are like holding tanks for debris. Your first line of defense is a keyboard cover-- get one and use it! This keeps out most of the dust that collects when the PC is not in use. For the debris that collects during use, a small brush is handy for getting between the keys, and there are non-water based solvents and swabs sold for those tough cleaning jobs. Small particles can also be blown out using a can of photographer's compressed gas or a bulb/brush combination. Finally, if you smoke, try not to smoke near your computer, as the particles of ash and smoke tend to find their way into your computer and between key contacts, etc. Remember Murphy's Law!

Cassette Players need to be cleaned and de-magnetized about every 30 hours. There are plenty of demagnetizers on the market, but the TDK HD-01 is the most convenient; it sells for about $20 and can be used in your car and home stereos, too. The same applies for cassette cleaners; I use an Allsop cleaner but there are many others, so check your local stores if you don't have one. Disc Drives are a special case-- some say clean, others say not to. I tend to not clean unless it is absolutely necessary, because the slightest scratch will ruin the head, and by extension, your drive-- new heads cost as much as a new unit (see Larken column). But if you must clean, get a good quality kit, making sure it is single or double sided, depending on your drive. They are expensive, but not as expensive as a head replacement.

Finally, Printers. These need to be cleaned periodically to keep the print quality crisp and clear because dust, paper fibers and ink can accumulate on the print surface. When choosing a cleaner for your printer, avoid alcohol based agents entirely-- alcohol attacks rubber parts and could harm the platen roller or other rubber parts in the mechanism. A can of compressed gas or the brush/blower bulb combination also works well in removing dust and fibers from recessed areas in printers, and it doesn't hurt to invest in a printer cover, either. In closing, with a little care and luck, you can keep your PC and running trouble free for a long, long time.

LARKEN DISC DRIVE INTERFACE- A review. Manufactured by Larken Electronics, R.R. 2, Navan, Ontario, Canada K4B 1H9 (613- 835-2680) Available directly from the manufacturer, $95 for a single drive card, $99/double, plus $3 S+H.

If you've ever waited six minutes for a program to load from cassette and then been greeted by the "Great White-Out" screen, you will truly appreciate this peripheral with its quick, sure loads, saves, and easy to use commands. The Larken interface (DDI for short) comes as a 3x6 circuit board with a power connector and ribbon cable to hook it to the 3.5 inch IBM compatible floppy drive and power supply (supplying 5 VDC and 12 VDC) that you must supply. This is all explained in the clear and informative manual also supplied. I hooked everything up according to the diagrams, powered up, and here I hit the first obstacle-- my drive did not have the jumper switches neccesary to configure the drive to my system, those labeled MS (jumpered) and MN (not jumpered). So I went back to the computer store and purchased a better drive that happened to have these switches- these are a must have feature of the drive you buy- and connected this one. After power-up, I entered RAND USR 14336 to call up the operating system, and it responded with "LDOS*", the command prompt-- I was in business! Slide a floppy into the drive, type in "FORMAT", and you're ready to go-- the manual explains modifying programs for use with floppies, including auto-save and auto-run upon loading. You are allowed up to 52 files per disk or 160K capacity, whichever comes first, with a maximum single program size of 47040 bytes. You have six commands at your disposal on the 2K EPROM: LOAD, SAVE, DIRECTORY, FORMAT, EXIT and DELETE. You also have to specify whether you are saving a basic

program, a block of machine code, or an array-- all can be saved independently! The manual is short but extremely complete, and if you have any problems, Larry Kenney, the inventor, is glad to answer any questions he can if you call during business hours (I know this first-hand). Other things I have discovered- if you have a program with a graphic display, add a "CLS" command at or near the start if you auto-run it-- the DOS prints a "0" at the top of the screen after a successfull load, and without a "CLS" the screen will fill up and the program will stop with an error code, 5/**. Also, the DOS EPROM is incompatible with the Memotech word processor, as they both use the 8-16K memory block. You can use one or the other, but they cause a system crash together. Solution-- write to Fred Nachbaur, Silicon Mtn. Software, C-12 Mtn. Sta. Group Box, Nelson, BC CANADA V1L 5P1. He will soon have Memotext on a Larken-compatible disk (write for more details). Also, Timex Chess (by Psion) doesn't seem to be compatible with the DDI, either-- it locks up the computer upon running, with the only way out being to cut power and start over. But all in all, the Larken DDI is the best investment I've made in my computer since the full-size printer, and I recommend it highly. The whole package, in my case, came to about $285, but in terms of productivity, it was money well spent.